Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Diplomat, PS to Minister of External Affairs

Mr. Venu Rajamoni, OSD to External Affairs' Minister

Ms. Reva Ganguli Das, Director, Ministry of External Affairs

Unsolved issues of Johannesburg Earth Summit

3159. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after a document on sustainable development of the Earth has been finalised, a number of issues like targets for increase in amount of power generated from renewable sources, the insistence of developed countries to link the demand for aid with rights recorded and democracy of the developing nations, and the latter's demand for cut in subsidies to farmers in developed countries, remained unsolved and were subject to controversy;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects and issues on which controversy continued to persist; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):(a) to (c) During the discussions in the World Summit on Sustainable Development(WSSD), the question of diversification of energy supply by developing advanced and cleaner energy technologies and setting a target for renewable energy was extensively debated. The European Union insisted on a global target of 2 per cent of renewable energy by the year 2010 from the base year 2000. On the basis of their energy resources endowment, Group of 77 and China and some developed countries were cautious in accepting a firm commitment on the share of renewable energy in their overall energy requirement. This issue was resolved by including strong and emphatic references to increase the share of renewable energy on a global, regional and national basis. India succeeded in making developed nations agree on helping the developing countries with the necessary financial and technical resources to increase the share of renewable energy in a gradual manner.

During the discussions on agriculture, issues related to the impact of trade policies that support micro enterprises, value added agricultural

products and re-direction of agricultural subsidies to poverty and hunger eradication were discussed. Bracketed text on achieving improvements in market access, phasing out of export subsidies and reduction of trade distorting practices in agriculture were considered together with other trade related issues. However, due to their domestic compulsions, developed countries did not agree to lift farm subsidies and thus it did not find place in the agreed texts of Political Declaration and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

As against the internationally agreed norm of providing 0.7 per cent of their annual GNP as overseas development assistance, developed countries had only provided 0.22 per cent of their GNP as ODA to developing countries in 1997. The Plan of Implementation once again urged the developed countries to fulfill this commitment. In their counter arguments developed countries linked the aid to good governance at the national level in the developing countries. However, India and the other developing countries are of the view that there is, in addition to good governance at national level, a need for better coordination among various agencies leading to improved international environmental governance.

Integrated Forestry Development Project in Gujarat

3160. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of Gujarat Government on Integrated Forestry Development Project has been lying with Ministry of Finance for long, pending clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the said proposal would be cleared by the Ministry of Finance and sent to JBIC?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The proposal of Gujarat Government titled 'Integrated Forestry Development Project' has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to pose the project to Japan Bank for International Cooperation for seeking external assistance during 2003-2004.